



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 159**

*January Session, 2003*

Substitute House Bill No. 6294

*House of Representatives, April 2, 2003*

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Communications equipment or service" means any physical  
4 devices for use in tactical public safety dispatch radio, including  
5 equipment, software, hardware or services which facilitate the  
6 sending, transmission, carriage or use of any radiotelephone or mobile  
7 radio or other wireless communication, including, but not limited to,  
8 fixed and mobile wireless transceiver devices, switches, routers,  
9 trunking devices, relay devices, transmission devices, transmission  
10 receiving devices, antennas, base stations, administrative consoles,  
11 cross connect devices, multiplexing devices, coders and decoders;

12 (2) "Public safety application" means any application, function or  
13 use relating to protecting, maintaining or advancing the safety of the

14 public, including, but not limited to, the use of voice or data  
15 communications to assist homeland security, policing and law  
16 enforcement, border patrol and protection, civil emergency and  
17 preparedness, fire safety, control and fire suppression, medical  
18 response and emergency medical response, highway and other public  
19 transportation operation, maintenance, repair and assistance;

20 (3) "System" means the communications network or system upon or  
21 through which radio or wireless based communications are facilitated,  
22 in whole or in part, from one point of origination to any other one or  
23 more final or intermediate points of delivery or reception, including,  
24 but not limited to, router, switching and trunking elements, call or  
25 channel validation and authorization elements, network signaling and  
26 control elements and protocols, and interconnection and relay  
27 elements; and

28 (4) "Interconnection" means any reasonable and nondiscriminatory  
29 system of mutual connection and interoperability between  
30 communications systems which complies with the technical  
31 specifications of the interconnection which are published and available  
32 at no cost to the equipment user, licensee or owner or any other party.

33 (b) Interconnection and interoperability shall be deemed to permit  
34 any third party equipment or third party communications system,  
35 through application programming interface specifications, protocol  
36 specifications and hardware and system design specifications, to:

37 (1) Send and receive voice and data content from the system in its  
38 native transmission format or protocol without the aid of a proprietary  
39 equipment or signal interpreter, coder or decoder device or other end  
40 device, at and within such points of the system irrespective of the  
41 physical point or method of interface, to the extent technically feasible;

42 (2) Send and receive network, routing, trunking and switching  
43 control and signaling control data, inputs and outputs in its native  
44 format or protocol, and to execute, process and transmit network  
45 control and signaling functions and to do so at and within such points

46 of the system irrespective of the physical point or method of interface,  
47 to the extent technically feasible;

48 (3) Access, physically and electronically, and interface with any  
49 element of the system at such points that are technically capable of  
50 being interfaced, or substitute, replace, supplement or enhance any  
51 element of the system, or part thereof, with an element or part thereof  
52 made or supplied by any third party that complies with the  
53 specifications without invalidating any guarantees or warranties  
54 relating to the system other than the part or element so replaced or  
55 modified.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

**Explanation**

The bill provides that any wireless communications systems that are funded by public funds and used in a public safety application be open access systems. Passage of the bill would require the state and municipalities to purchase “newer” technology in order to comply with the statute. While open access systems provide for greater communication capabilities across different networks, these systems are generally more expensive.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6294

**AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS****SUMMARY:**

This bill defines the following terms pertaining to public safety radio communications: "communications equipment or service," "public safety application," "interconnection," and "system." It also describes what interconnection and interoperability must entail. Because the bill only defines terms and does not explicitly require or authorize anything, its legal effect is unclear.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22      Nay 0